A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF MAXIM FLOUTING UTTERED BY THE CHARACTERS IN MUCCINO'S *PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS* MOVIE

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Abstract

This study focuses on maxim flouting uttered by the characters in Pursuit of Happyness movie. This study is aimed at (1) identifying the types of maxim flouting in Pursuit of Happyness movie and (2) describing the strategies of maxim flouting uttered by the characters in Pursuit of Happyness movie.

This study applied qualitative research method. The data served as Pursuit of Happyness movie script. This study applied note-taking to collect data technique. The procedures of data analysis (1) identified the data which the researcher assumed as maxim flouting, (2) coded the data into data sheet, (3) re-checked the accuracy of the data findings, and (4) interpreted the data findings in order to answer the research question, and (5) made a conclusion of the data.

The results of the data analysis show two important findings. First, the researcher finds four types of maxim flouted in the movie. They are maxim flouting of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. Maxim flouting of quantity ranks first because the characters deliberately gives more information than is needed within a conversation. Second, there are ten strategies of maxim flouting found in the movie. They are tautology, overstatement, understatement, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, banter, sarcasm, changing topic, and being not brief (obscure). The highest occurrence of the strategy used to flout maxim is overstatement strategy. On the grounds that overstatement is commonly used to pursue people to accept the speaker's idea.

Keyword: Pragmatics, Maxim Flouting, Muccino"s *Pursuit of Happyness*

INTRODUCTION

People use language in communication to express their idea and feeling in order to keep in touch with other. People need to share their thoughts or ideas to show their intentions in order to fulfill their needs. It can be done via communication. However, sometimes when people communicate, what they

say is not always the same as what they mean. Here, both speaker and listener need to be cooperative in order toachieve a successful communication. In fact, the speaker sometimes does not aware that they are not cooperating with each other. In most circumstances, the assumption of cooperation is so pervasive that stated as a Cooperative Principle. The cooperative principle is elaborated in four sub-principles called maxim of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. However, there are n some case when speaker do not cooperative to hearer. When this happens, the hearers must assume that the speakers˝ utterances imply something which Cutting (2002) calls maxim flouting. This study focuses on the types of maxim flouting and the strategies used to flout the maxims in the characters˝ utterances in Muccino˝s *Pursuit of Happyness* movie.

RESEARCH METHODS
Type of Study

In this study, the researcher used descriptive qualitative approach since it describing phenomenon in its context. Descriptive qualitative gives deeper understanding of the data. It is aimed at providing richer description of the people, objects, events, places and conversation being studied.

Data and Source Data

The data of this study were in the form of utterances. The context of the data was in the form of dialogues between the characters and other participants. The data source of the study was the script of *Pursuit of Happyness* movie taken from https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BxSIwgdS3pgeZnJBY0dkUHpEVEU/view?pref=2&pli=1

Research Instrument

In this study, the researcher was the main instrument. As the primary instrument, she collected, analyzed and interpreted the data.

Data collecting technique

This study employed note-taking as a technique to gather data. The application of the technique follows the following procedures.

(1) The researcher watched the movie to see the phenomenon of maxim flouting

(2) She downloaded the scripts of the movie

(3) She observed the types and the strategies used by the characters

(4) She took notes of the utterances from the script and categorized the data based on the classification of the problem

(5) She put the data into data sheet and coded the data.

Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, she used some steps as follows.

(1) Identifying

To start the data analysis, the research categorized the raw data that had been identified as maxim flouting. Some categorizations were made as a form of identification on the data of this study.

(2) Coding

Coding was used as a sign of identification of the data in this study. After classification of the data findings she then coded the data into the data sheet.

(3) Discussing

After coding and re-examining the data findings, the researcher interpreted the data in order to answer the formulations of the problems.

(4) Drawing conclusion

After the researcher made the result of the data interpretation, she made a conclusion. This was the last step in which she drew the conclusion of the study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
Findings

The results of the data show that all types of maxim flouting found in the movie. They are maxim flouting of quantity, maxim flouting of quality, maxim flouting of relation, and maxim flouting of manner. However, the highest rank occurred in the movie is maxim flouting of quantity.

From the data analysis, all types are flouted by using some strategies. In the movie, overstatement was the most used strategy. The main character flouted the maxim flouting of quantity by using overstatement because he wants to pursue people to accept his idea.

Discussion

Types of Maxim Flouting in *Pursuit of Happyness* Movie

(1) Maxim flouting of quantity

Chris	: We need room. Just until I can fix this and sell this. There"s just some glass work.
Woman	: Let me stop you right there. I wish I could help you…..
Chris	: This is my son, Christopher. **He's five years old.**

Woman	: Hi, baby.
Chris	: We need some place to stay.

P: 1. Chris, 2.Woman
S: In front of shelter
LF: Maxim flouting of quantity
(MF/FQn/01:13:00)

The above dialogue was the dialogue between Chris and a woman in front of shelter. It happened when Chris and his son needed a place to stay for a night. Actually Chris did not have enough money to pay for a rental place. Chris and his son did not have any place to stay anymore. Chris and his son then looked for a shelter to spend their night. He begged to the woman by giving more information than what was required. Chris said *'This is my son, Christopher. He's five years old'.* In this context, Chris"s utterance is categorized as maxim flouting of quantity since he introduces Christopher and explains his age to the woman. Chris has a purpose by introducing his son to the woman. The reason is that Chris wants to make the woman sympathize to him and his son so they can stay together in the shelter.

However, Chris fails because the shelter is only for women or children. The woman permits Christopher to stay but Chris needs to find somewhere else. The dialogue (4:01) is categorized as an example of maxim flouting of quantity. It is because Chris gives too many information to the woman than what is required.

(2) Maxim flouting of quality

Chris : Had to go to college to be a stockbroker, huh?

Man : You don‟t have to. Have to be good with numbers and good with people. That‟s it.

Chris : Hey, you take care. I‟ll let you hang to my car for the weekend.

Man : But I need it back for Monday. **Feed the meter.**

P: 1.Chris Gardner, 2.A stockbroker
S: In front of *Dean Witter* Office
LF: Maxim flouting of quality
                    (MF/FQl/00:10:00)

The above dialogue happens when Chris met a stockbroker in front of *Dean Witter* Company. On the scene, a stockbroker said *'Feed the meter'.* Contextually, Chris needs to pay parking ticket for his car. Actually, his utterance is false in the real context. He expects Chris will indicate what

is meant behind his utterances. A stockbroker asks Chris to pay for the parking ticket if Chris lends his car.

(3) Maxim flouting of relation

Linda : That means interests, right? and a penalty?

Chris : Yeah, a little bit. Look, why don‟t you let me do this? All right, just relax. Okay? Come here. Calm down.

Linda : **I have to go back to work!**

P: 1.Linda, 2.Chris
S: In the apartment‟ living room
LF: Maxim flouting of relation
                    (MF/ FRl/00:08:06)

The above scene shows that Linda frustrated due to Chris‟ abundant penalty for his car. She suddenly said to her husband „*I have to go back to work!*‟ along with their difficulties in selling the scanner machine, the car taxes, and traffic ticket. Chris tried to calm her down but she refused it by saying she needed to get back to work. In relation to the context, she breaks the maxim of relation since she suddenly changes the topic being discussed to end the conversation.

(4) Maxim flouting of manner

Man : Chris. What would you say, if a guy walked in for an interview without a shirt on...and I hired him? What would you say?

Chris : **He must've had some really nice pants.**

Man : (laughing)

P: 1.Interviewer, 2.Chris Gardner
S: In the office room
LF: Maxim flouting of manner
(MF/FMn/01:11:00)

It can be seen from the dialogue (4:10), Chris talked to the *Dean Witter* officer during his job interview. It can be seen from the way how Chris answers interviewer‟s question in ambiguous way. It sounds like something funny but he gives an implied meaning by saying „*He must've had some really nice pants'.* With regard to the context Chris wants to note the interviewers that someone cannot be judged only from the physical appearance. They also need to measure something more valuable than it, such as loyalty, intelligence, or motivation.

Strategies used to flout maxims

(5) Strategies to flout maxim of quantity

Chris : I‟m gonna try to get home by 6. I‟m gonna stop by brokerage firm after work.

Linda : For what?

Chris : I wanna see about a job there.

Linda : Yeah? What job?

Chris : **You know, when l..when I was a kid, I could go through a math book in a week. So I'm gonna go see about what job they got down there.**

Linda : What job ?

P: 1.Chris, 2.Linda
S: In the bathroom
LF: Overstatement
(MF/FQn/00:10:58/Ov)

The above dialogue happens in a bathroom between Chris and his wife, Linda. They were involved in a conversation about Chris‟s job. Chris said that he could not go back home on time. Chris would go to Dean Witter office to apply for a job. Then his wife asked him about what kind of job that he was going to apply; Chris answered her question in a long courtesy. With regard to the context, he breaks the

maxim of quantity by giving more information in regarding the story of his childhood. He uses an overstatement strategy to flout the maxim.

(6) Strategies to flout maxim of quality

Chris   :When I was a kid, I could go through a math book in a week. So I'm gonna see about what job they got down there.
Linda   : What job?
Chris   : Stockbroker.
Linda   : Stockbroker?
Chris   : Yeah.
Linda   : **Not an astronaut**?

P: 1.Chris Gardner, 2.Linda
S: In the bathroom
LF: Irony
                    (MF/FQl/Ir)

The above dialogue happens when Chris and Linda were in the bathroom together. With mocked tone, Linda said „*not an astronaut?*". In reference to this context, through Linda" utterance, it seems that Linda does not believe what Chris says about that kind of job. She asks Chris about a better job as an astronaut, but the real meaning she wants to say is that she is actually in doubt about her husband"s capability in applying that job.

(7) Strategy to flout maxim of relation

Chris   : I can't get Christopher today. I have got to go to Oakland.
Linda   : So I gotta get Christopher home, feed him, bathe him... get him in bed, and be back here by 7?
Chris   : Yes
Linda   : **we got the tax-bill notice today.**

P: 1.Chris Gardner, 2.Linda
S: In Factory
LF: Changing topic
                    (MF/FRl/00:26:07/Ct)

Chris met linda in the factory. They were having a conversation talking about Christopher. Chris asked Linda to pick up Christoper after day care. Linda refused because she had to work at that time. But Chris kept begging Linda to pick Christopher up as Chris had to go to Oakland. With upset face, Linda answered that she could not do. Then, she changed the topic discussion about taxes. She said "we got the tax bill notice today". Wit

268

regard to the context, Linda actually changes the discussion topic that is not related at all to the previous discussion. Linda flouts the maxim flouting of relation by using changing topic strategy.

(8) Strategies to flout maxim of manner

Mrs chu : Go pay more at other daycare if you don't like Navy TV. You late pay anyway. You complain. I complain.

Chris : Can you at least put the dog upstairs in your room or something?

Mrs chu : **Bye**.

P: 1.Chris Gardner, 2.Mrs.Chu
S: In the day care for children
LF: Not Brief
     (MF/FQn/00:18:47/Nb)

The above dialogue happens after Chris transmitted Christopher into day care. Chris then asks Mr.Chu"s about the activities in the day care. Chris also teased Mrs Chu about films delivered to Christopher. Chris pointed out his anger to Mrs Chu because she delivered adult films to his son. At that time, Mrs Chu tried to avoid the conversation with Chris. She thinks that she only tune up a film to children but she does not thinks the bad effect of the films. Mrs Chu does not like Chris" complain. She ends a conversation with Chris by providing any unclear explanation. She just said „Bye". Contextually, she breaks the maxim of manner by using not brief strategy. Mrs.chu uses very simple word in order to make a point that she is angry with Chris because he pays tuition fee late.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings, a conclusion can be drawn that all types of maxim are flouted. They are maxim flouting of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. The occurrences of each type of maxim flouting are different in the movie. The most occurring type is maxim flouting of quantity. Maxim flouting of quality is on the second rank. The third rank is maxim flouting of relation. The last rank is maxim flouting of manner.

In terms of strategies used by the characters, there are ten strategies of maxim flouting found in the movie. These are tautology, overstatement,

269

understatement, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, banter, sarcasm, changing topic, and not brief (being obscure). The highest occurrence of the strategy used to flout maxim is an overstatement strategy. The rest strategies are changing topic strategy, tautology, sarcasm, metaphor, being not brief, understatement, and banter strategy.

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